

## Message Text

SECRET

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22

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 200746Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7621

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2100

EXDIS

DEPT PLEASE REPEAT USCINCEUR SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS FOR JO SA US

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) STATE 093532, (B) AMMAN 2070

1. I HAD ARRANGED TO TAK WITH RIFAI APRIL 19 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON AIR DEFENSE (REF A) PLAN WAS TO SEE HIM FOR A FEW MINUTES FOLLOWING HIS MEETING TODAY WITH SENATOR MATHIAS. MEETING WITH SENATOR WAS INTERRUPTED WILL CALL FROM PALACE TO SEE KING SO MY TALK WITH RIFAI WAS TRUNCATED. I DID HAVE TOME TO PASS ON TO RIFAI AS I NORMALLY DO COPY OF SECRETARY'S MESSAGE TO KING ON HAWK (STATE 094162) ON WHICH RIFAI SAID HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED BY KING.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION RIFAI SAID HE WANTED TO CORRECT ONE THING KING TOLD ME. HE SAID JORDANIANS DID NOT AGREE TO A PHASED APPROACH IF IT MEANT CUTTING DOWN THE SIZE OF THE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BY OUR MILITARY AND THEIR MILITARY. I TOLD RIFAI THAT OUR APPROACH WAS TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A FULL SYSTEM, BUT IN PHASES. RIFAI SATED TO PROTEST ABOUT THEIR NOT TAKING ONLY HALF A SYSTEM I TOLD RIFAI HE SHOULD RELAX ABOUT THIS AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT COULD BE WORKED OUT. HE CONTINUED WITH HIS REMAKRS ALONG THE SAME LINES, UT I TOLD HIM THAT WE WERE WORKING EARNESTLY ON GETTING THE SYSTEM FOR

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JORDAN AND THATHE SHOULD UNDERSTAND OUR PHASED APPROACH

WAS ON HE FUDING OF THE SYSTEM AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT  
COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. I TOLD RIFAI THAT WE WERE UNHAPPY ABOUT WHAT  
HE SAID PUBLICLY IN THE UK ABOUT THE COSTS OF THE AIR  
DEFENSE SYSTEM. HE IMMEDIATELY WENT ON THE DEFENSIVE  
SAYING "AND I WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE MY VIEW KNOWN".  
MY EARLIER CONVERSION WITH THE KING HAD OBVIOUSLY  
BEEN MADE KNOWN TO HIM. HE TOLD ME THAT JORDAN HAS  
HIT SAUDIS HARD PUBLICLY WHILE THEY WERE IN THE US ON  
THE FUNDING QUESTION AND HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE SOME  
BALANCE BY TALKING ABOUT THE COSTS INCREASE. I SAID HE  
WAS ALL WRONG ON THE COSTS. HE SAID HE DID NOT THINK SO  
AND THAT IN THE PAST WE HAVE GIVEN JORDAN A \$255 MILLION  
FIGURE WHICH HAD THEN BEEN PASSED ON TO THE SAUDIS. I  
SAID I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT THAT AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE WHAT  
HE COULD GIVE US ON WHERE THAT FIGURE CAME FROM BECAUSE  
IT WAS NEWS TO ME.

4. I ASKED RIFAI TO LOOK AT A "NON-PAPER" WHICH I LEFT  
WITH HIM WHICH OUTLINED WHAT THIS EMBASSY HAD GIVEN JORDAN  
IN THE WAY OF INFORMATION ON THE COSTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE  
SYSTEM. IF HE HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH THAT HE SHOULD GET  
IN TOUCH WITH ME BECAUSE AS FAR AS WE WERE CONCERNED THIS  
WAS THE CORRECT STORY. MEANWHILE IT DID NOT HELP IN  
WASHINGTON FOR HIM TO ACCUSE UNFAIRLY THE US OR THE  
CONGRESS OF EXCALATING THE COSTS WHEN THE UNITED STATES  
WAS MAKING A MAJOR EFFORT TO WORK OUT THE PROBLEM  
WITH THE SAUDIS. HE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT. AFTER MY TALK  
WITH THE KING YESTERDAY, THEY HAD CALLED HOME THEIR  
AMBASSADOR FROM SAUDI ARABIA WHO WOULD RETURN SHORTLY  
TO ASSURE THE SAUDIS THAT THEY WERE STILL INTERESTED  
IN THE DEAL AND TO FIND OUT WHEN THEY COULD GET THEIR  
\$300 MILLION OF WHATEVER ELSE THE SAUDIS COULD PROVIDE THEM.

5. SEPTTEL PROVIDES TEXT FOR DEPARTMENT AND JIDDA  
OF APPER WHICH I LEFT FOR RIFAI TO EXPLAIN EXACTLY  
WHAT WE HAD PROVIDED TO JORDAN IN THE WAY OF INFORMATION  
ON THE COSTS OF AN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. PAPER ALSO BEING  
PROVIDED TO JORDAN ARMY COMMANDER IN CHIEF BIN  
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SHAKER. PAPER HAD AS ATTACHMENT TEXT OF LETTERS  
DATES 14 OCTOBER 1975 AND 19 DECEMBER 1975 FROM  
DEFENSE ATTACHE AMMAN TO LT GEN BIN SHAKER PROVIDING  
ROUGH ORDER OF MAGNITUDE FIGURES FOR THE HAWK SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: FIGURE OF \$255 MILLION RIFAI MENTIONED  
IN PARA 3 ABOVE COULD REFER TO THE \$255 MILLION LETTER OF  
OFFICER '70") FOR PRIMARY HARDWARE COSTS FOR THE

14 HAWK BATTERIES. ALSO WHILE RIFAI SAID  
HE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE HIS VIEWS KNOWN HE HAS THUS  
FAR BEEN DODGING US JOURNALISTS HERE WHO HAVE BEEN  
TRYING TO SEE RIFAI ON HAWKS.  
PICKERING

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS ADDED PER S/S-O - MR. OTTO.  
NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO ABOVE ADDRESSEE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIR DEFENSE, MISSILES, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976AMMAN02100  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760148-0931  
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**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760446/aaaabmib.tel  
**Line Count:** 122  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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